

REMARKS

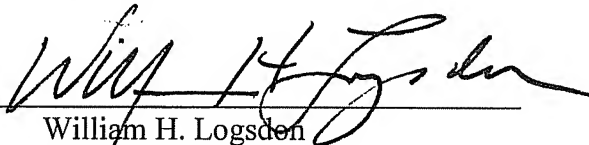
The Examiner has asserted that the claims must be restricted and requests that the Applicants elect the claims of Group I (claims 23-27) or Group II (claim 28). Applicants provisionally elect to prosecute the claims of Group I (claims 23-27) with traverse, and reserve the right to file a divisional application or take such other appropriate measures as they deem necessary to protect their inventions recited within Group II (claim 28) if the restriction requirement is maintained.

Examination of Groups I and II does not pose an undue burden on the Examiner. Claim 28 is directed to a kit that comprises a 1% agglutination reagent as recited in claim 24. Claim 24 is directed to the agglutination reagent recited in claim 28. Therefore, a search directed to Group I would necessarily overlap a search directed to Group II. Since the searches for Groups I and II overlap each other, there is no undue burden on the Examiner.

For this reason, Applicants respectfully request that the restriction requirement be withdrawn, and that claims 23-28 be examined on their merits and allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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